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tion of Gustavus III. of Sweden (1792) to the influence of the French Jacobins is a manifest mistake. That crime was due to the opposition of the Swedish nobility to the King, and is not to be placed in the same line with the murder of the royal family of France. The author also displays too much partiality for the book of Father Charlevoix on Paraguay. While certainly very valuable, it is not on the level of that eminent writer's work on Canada, for the simple reason that he did not visit personally the La Plata regions. Father Hernandez might also have done well to include the work of Father Martin Dobrizhofer, S.J. (1784), "*Historia de Abiponibus*," and the letter of Father Lozano, S.J., of 1747 among his sources. It is true, however, that the latter has more properly a geographical value. The succeeding volume of the "*Colección*" is of much greater importance for geography. The present volume has no index of the contents of chapters. The list appended of Jesuit writers and missionaries is of importance, as it contains references to documents partly unknown and which, in view of the attention paid by the Jesuits to the geography and natural history of the regions explored by them, might be expected to contain valuable data. The letter published at the end, of chiefs of the Guarani Indians, dated 1768 and asking for a return of the Jesuits to their missions, is quite an instructive document.

A. F. B.

Colección de Libros y Documentos referentes á la Historia de América. Vol. VIII. "Relaciones Históricas y Geográficas de América Central. Edited by Manuel Serrano y Sanz.

Victoriano Suárez, Madrid, 1908.

In arranging the nine documents published in this volume, the editor has adopted the beautiful system of disorder prevalent (among others) in the "*Documentos inéditos de Indias*." There is no chronological sequence and barely an attempt at geographical grouping. We also note, as a curiosity, that he gives at the end, among the forthcoming volumes, the "*Memorial*" of Zurita as "*inédito*." That the latter has been published more than once seems to be unknown to Señor Serrano.

A lengthy introduction opens the present volume. It is not altogether devoid of interest. The numerous documents given relative to English efforts at making of the Mosquito Coast a basis for obtaining a foothold across Nicaragua to the Pacific are of historical and political significance, and the references in them to the investigations of Colonel Hodgson are well worth preserving. Maps are also alluded to that are not generally known, and to a great extent unpublished. The latter part of the introduction is devoted to copious abstracts from the work of Fray Fernando Espino on missions among the Jicaques of Guatemala. The work of Father Espino: "*Relacion verdadera*, etc." (Guatemala, 1674), is excessively rare, as well as that of Father Vasquez, whose "*Crónica*" appeared in 1714-1716. But the fact of great rarity of a book does not justify the innumerable of an introduction by abstracts that have no bearing upon geographical, and hardly upon ethnographical, topics. Taken from the book of Vasquez, who copies Espino, they are the more superfluous that the treatise of Espino is given in this volume also and relates the same occurrences with greater detail. Interesting are, at the end of the introduction, the biographical details concerning Juan de Pineda, whose report on Guatemala closes the volume. It is well to note that he wrote to the King a report on Cholula (Cholollan) in 1594, which it would be interesting to compare with that of Gabriel de Rojas (1581).

The first document printed in full is a "Relación histórica y geográfica de la provincia de Panamá," by Juan Requejo Salcedo, from Dec., 1640. Although lengthy, it is of mediocre importance, being chiefly abstracts from the Latin translation of Herrera's "Historia General" of 1622 (not 1527 as the document has it) and from a report by Father Juan Fonseca, printed, but exceedingly rare. The latter deserves some attention for the description of the great earthquake which devastated Panamá in the first quarter of the seventeenth century. It is accompanied by very picturesque references to Pliny and Albertus Magnus on the origin of earthquakes and their geographical distribution and by a discussion of their possible connection with eclipses. The part containing ecclesiastical matters is mostly due to the pen of Requejo himself.

Of substantial value is the next document, an anonymous "Descripción de Panamá y su Provincia" written by command of the Audiencia of Panamá in 1607. It is a most minute description of the city and its territory and of great importance to local geography. Every height, valley, plain, river, bay and inlet is not only enumerated, but every feature of it described in detail; the climate, hygienic (or rather unhygienic) conditions stated, and every imaginable disease, with its proper remedy as far as known, except—yellow fever! It is as if that scourge had not made its appearance in Panamá during the sixteenth century. Of considerable value for the naturalist are the profuse lists of Spanish and aboriginal names of animals and plants and the qualities useful as well as noxious of each plant carefully detailed. It is to be regretted that this document (like the preceding one) is disfigured by a number of impossible dates, like the foundation of Panamá in 1509 instead of 1519, the discovery by Balboa of the South Sea in 1503, and the like, which throw a veil of uncertainty over other dates mentioned and not generally known. Also the manuscript persists in calling Vasco Nuñez de Balboa, Blasco Nuñez Vela. This is the only error of the kind the editor sees fit to correct.

The "Diario" or journal of the operations relative to the evacuation of Cape Gracias á Dios (Mosquito Coast) by the English in 1787 is of small importance and only shows how reluctant the English were to abandon that point, even after they had been ordered to do so, and how much they endeavoured to impress the natives with the probability of their return.

The document following: "Relación del Reconocimiento Geometrico y Politico de la Costa de Mosquitos," in the year 1790, is the natural corollary of the preceding and embodies the results of the geographical and hydrographical surveys practiced by the Spaniards. It is a description of the coast that is by no means devoid of value, especially when placed in parallel with more or less contemporary English reports.

Of the same character are the several abstracts from Spanish reports on the Mosquito Coast and parts of Guatemala from the years 1791-1804.

The "Relación Verdadera" of Fray Fernando de Espino, 1674, we have already alluded to. It has the merit of being a reprint of a pamphlet of which only one copy is supposed to exist.

The group of documents touching the project of settling (reduction) and ultimate conversion of the "Jicaques" Indians of Honduras offers but little interest. There is in the first document a description of the region which they occupied that has some local value. The Jicaques or "xicaques" now live on the rio Sumaque in Honduras, they maintain their autonomy if not their independence, and speak a language that has not yet been classified.

To these Indians the last document of the collection, "Descripción de la provincia de Guatemala," 1594, by Juan de Pineda, belongs. It is preceded by a royal mandate to the author, appointing him to the task of making a census of all the Indians of Guatemala directly depending on the crown, for the purpose of proper collection of the tribute. The fruit of this decree is the "descripción" here mentioned, and, while it is dry and purely matter of fact, it becomes the more valuable since it presents in a condensed form the population of Guatemala, especially as regards the Indians, a number of brief allusions to topography and to the agricultural and other resources of the country as known to a man who had lived in Guatemala since 1552. This report may, in some respect, not be regarded as fully impartial. The object of Pineda was, to prove to the King that the crown did not derive the proper revenue from the Indians; their condition, therefore, and the resources of their lands may be represented in a manner somewhat too florid. But under any circumstances the document is, together with the description of Panamá from 1607, the most important and valuable one of the whole collection.

The lack of systematic arrangement of the collection is on a par with the well known "Documentos inéditos de Indias." Few, if any, of the Spanish publications of the kind escape that criticism. Even the regretted Marcos Jiménez de la Espada, although far superior to the editor of the present volume in knowledge and method of handling of American documents, did not find it feasible to introduce strict chronological sequence in the "Relaciones geográficas de Indias." Still he did at least observe geographical grouping, at which there is only a faint attempt in the book before us.

A. F. B.

Old Steamboat Days on the Hudson River. By David Lear Buckman. viii and 143 pp., 22 Illustrations, and Index. The Grafton Press, New York, 1907. (Price, \$1.25.)

The author has brought together highly interesting data collected from many sources and relating to the beginnings and development of steam traffic on the Hudson. He tells of Robert Fulton and his first steamboat, the early craft that plied between New York and Albany, the exciting rivalries of competing lines, the floating towns of canal boats, the evolution of steamboat construction, and the palatial steamers of to-day. These tales and reminiscences supply an absorbing chapter in our country's history.

Ripios Geográficos por Antonio de Valbuena (Miguel de Escalada). 8vo, 334 pp. Victoriano Suárez, Madrid, 1905.

This BULLETIN is a geographical, not a political, publication, and it cannot, therefore, discuss the merits of a book devoted exclusively to bitter and often offensively personal criticism of the official geographical institutions of a foreign country. If the misdemeanors and mistakes noted in this book are only partly true, they would indicate for the geographical institutes of Spain a deplorable condition. The author passes in review successively the "Instituto Geográfico," the "Depósito de la Guerra," the Astronomical Observatory, the direction of Public Works, the Dirección de Correos and, finally, some private geographical publications. Nothing finds grace before his eyes, everything is wrong and badly managed, and it would seem as if ignorance, incompetency, and dishonesty ran riot in everything connected with geographical work in and by Spain. That country is probably not much worse than others; favoritism, protection of igno-